The IG Farben committee minutes as a source on industrial history research on the period of capitalism

from Rudolf Schröder

The steps taken by the management bodies of IG Farben are of great importance for any presentation of the history of former IG companies. However, very often great difficulties will arise when it comes to the transmission of these documents because, due to the structure of the IG, not all companies had access to the documents of the management bodies. On the other hand, important documents were relocated or destroyed shortly before the collapse of fascism.

However, no company should resign itself to these difficulties, but every former IG company or company once associated with the IG that possesses such documents only partially or not at all must make an effort to locate them and possibly consult missing documents in other company archives. This applies in particular to companies in which the IG was involved or which were connected to the IG in some other form. Very often, the influence of the IG is not readily apparent in these companies, as care was always taken to conceal the decisive role of the group.

For example, the minutes of the 20th meeting of the Working Committee on this issue state: "Outside the agenda, reference was made to the need to ensure parity in dealings with other companies.

form and to avoid any emphasis on the position of power. [1]

The structure of the group provides certain clues for the identification of material, as the subordinate relationship of the individual companies in the IG system alone provides certain indications as to which company archives contain individual documents or sub- archives.

1 Betrieb■archiv VEB I "arb■��abrik Wolten (hereinafter: l'awo), A 516, Arbeitsausschul! (transcript of the 20th meeting on 16. 2. 1927).

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are located over entire subject areas. For this reason, it is recommended that all workers' history collectives of the former IG companies and the companies formerly associated with the IG inform themselves in particular about the structure of the IG in general and about the position of their company in the group at that time.

A good source of information about this, which should be taken into account by all companies, are the directories published by the Executive Board and the Central Committee on the management and overall organization of the company.
tion of the IG.[2]

At the top of IG-Farben, as in any other company, were the General Meeting, the Supervisory Board and the Board of Management. In addition, there was an Administrative Board as a control committee of the Supervisory Board, but this was no longer convened from 1938 onwards For the control and management of the Group, a system of technical, commercial, scientific and administrative committees and commissions was also created, which, in addition to each other and in conjunction with each other, dealt with the numerous matters of the Group both technically and objectively and which were of decisive importance for the functioning of the entire IG organization.

The documents originating from the management bodies not only provide us with important information about special interests and measures relating to questions of production and management of plant groups or individual companies within the framework of the divisions and joint ventures, it also provides us with many sources for analyzing the strate and tactics of IG Farben in general. The minutes and documents of the IG's committees and commissions are a very important part of these documents. However, committee or commission documents will generally only be found in those companies t h a t were directly represented on the committees or commissions by their managers or other senior employees. The personal distribution of minutes shows that some companies only have a few minutes, while others have an almost complete collection. As a rule, the minutes were

2 Cf. **ibid., A** 433, Organizational structure **of** I. G. Farbenindustrie A. G.; ibid., A 4756, Directory of the branches and plants of I. G. Farbenindustrie Aktiengesellschaft, Frankfurt a. M. 1928; Betriebsarchiv VEB Film fabrik Wolfen (hereinafter: **Piwo),** A 5111 (authorized signatories **of** I. G. F'arbeninduetrie Aktiengesellschaft, Frankfurt **a. M.** 1938).

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numbered consecutively, so that it is relatively easy to determine whether the holdings in a company archive are complete or whether missing documents need to be consulted in other archives. In order to find the documents in the company archives, however, it is important for all company historians to know which committees and commissions existed, what **their** tasks were and which companies were represented by employees. The company history collectives can obtain this overview from the archive published by the Zen
tral Committee of the IG published the directory "Commissions of the I. G. [113], in which the following are listed:

1. Plants and branches with indication of the abbreviations used within the IG,
2. All committees and commissions with an overview of areas of responsibility, members and distribution of minutes,
3. list of all committee members and meeting participants,
4. a graphic overview of the Group structure.

The committees and commissions can be divided into two groups. While the first group comprised the large committees with an exclusively executive and decision-making function, the second group was made up of commissions with a predominantly advisory function. This group included a large number of specialized commissions which dealt with all issues arising at the lowest level, dealt with them in smaller technical colleges and prepared them for the final decision to be taken elsewhere. They established the necessary close links between the leading committees and the scientific and technical workflow. In principle, each production
In the first two branches, there was a scientific committee and a technical production committee, in which technical and commercial board members and the corresponding specialists from the companies were represented.

The major executive committees, which together with the Supervisory Board and the Executive Board formed the central management of the IG, were:

3 Cf. **Fawo,** A 5172 (Commissions of the I. **O.,** Frankfurt **a. V.** 1931). - As the directory was already published in 1931, it does not include the committees and commissions that were only formed at the beginning of the Second World War. The list of commissions is supplemented by the "Organizational structure of I. G. Farbenindustrie A. G." (ibid., A 433).

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The Central Committee (Z. A.),
the Working Committee **(A. A.),**
the Cau.fmänn.ish Committee (K. A.), the
Technical Committee (Tea) and the
Finance Committee.

In addition to these committees, there were also central commissions with important functions, such as the Social Commission, the Patent Commission, the Transport Commission and the Legal Committee.

The C e n t r a l Committee of the Executive Board was the supreme organ of IG management, and its directives were binding for all savings, operating and sales associations as well as for all other committees and commissions. In 1938, it was formed by the *board* members Schmitz, von Schnitzler, von Knieriem, ter Meer, Krauch, Hörnlein, Schneider (Leuna) and Gajewski (Wolfen-Film). As a smaller and therefore more active group of the Executive Board, the Central Committee was the actual head of the entire IG. It was the deciding body for all important issues relating to Group management,
However, it has not yet been possible to find a larger collection of minutes of the Central Committee in the company archives It can be assumed that these documents were either destroyed or moved from the company archives of the Wolfen film factory, **where** they should actually be found. However, documents that provide information about the activities of the C e n t r a l Committee may also be available in other sources. For example, in a letter to all plant community leaders dated August 22, 1933, the following note is found: "At the meeting of the Central Committee on September 6, 1932, it **was** decided to form an economic policy department under the direction of Dr. Gattineau,"[4] The minutes of the 71st meeting of the Working Committee on September 7, 1932, then take a position on the formation of this important department,
"--- in which the Press Office, Economic Policy Office and Trade Policy Office are combined. The department will report directly to the Central Committee. The aim is **to** achieve a consolidation of all economic policy interests of the **I.** G. Attention is d r a w n to the fact that Dr. Gattineau is to be consulted before entering into discussions with authorities, associations and ministries.

4 Ibid., A 436, Directorate, general correspondence.

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in economic policy issues so that the Economic Policy Department is able to ensure the uniformity of the I. G.'s external actions at all times.

"◆

Another file contains a circular from the Central Committee in which the division heads are expressly advised to procure the foreign currency necessary for the fascist rearmament by promoting exports. This circular, dated August 7, 1937, states: "We have been instructed by the Reich Ministry of Economics, under the staff of Colonel General Göring, to determine which measures can be taken to increase exports. To this end, we would ask you to examine at an accelerated pace whether and to what extent a
increase in the loss compensation rates granted in ZAV will result in a higher the export of your products can be achieved.

We would ask you to extend your investigations to all countries of the world, but in particular to Argentina, Australia, Yugoslavia and the United States.
Slavia, Canada, Poland, Romania, Russia, Hungary, Turkey and all other countries where free foreign exchange is available. [116]

This mandate was also fulfilled exactly by the IG, and the minutes of the 4th meeting of the Purchasing Committee on ;. No vember 193₇ contains the following overview[7]:

"Development of I. G. exports in comparison to German exports as a whole
(1932 = 100)

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Total German exports	100	84,	72,6	74,4	83,1	94,5
I. G, Export	100	9 101,1	95,3	102,2	99,4	113,8"

It was not only the Group's decisive and confidential matters that were dealt with in the Central Committee. Operational issues at individual plants were also discussed here. A memo from the Central Committee dated February 17, 1938, for example, states

5 Ebenda, A 520, ArbeitaauaachuB (Niederaohritt über die 71. Sitzung am 7. 9, 1932).
6 Piwo, A 4963, Kautmknniaoher AuaachuB (letter from the ZentralbUro■ of 7. a. 1937).
7 ibid., Kau.tmänniecher Au■acbui (report on the 4th meeting on November 5, 1937).

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about the Deutsche Celluloidfabrik Eilenburg,

"Köln-Rottweil Aktiengesellschaft, Berlin, had concluded a purchase agreement with Deatsche Celluloidfa.brik Eilenburg on Z7. October 1922, Köln-Rottweil Aktiengesellschaft **concluded a** purchase agreement with Deatsche Celluloidfa.brik Eilenburg. This contract included **r.** G. Farbenin
dnstrie Aktiengesellschaft o n August 30, 1926. The **r.** G. Eilsnburg guarantees a dividend on its respective share capital in the amount of the ordinary dividend of r. G. [118]

Given the importance of the minutes of the Central Committee, it is recommended that all company history collectives and company archives pay particular attention to documents of the Central Committee and material on its activities when processing archive holdings that have not yet been processed. Such an investigation should also be publicized. as these documents do not only serve a s a source for the history of a single company.

The The Works Committee was also a committee **of the** Executive Board. Its remit included reporting on and discussing all fundamental issues relating to operations and sales. The minutes of the meeting repeatedly mention other matters that may be of interest for the history of the company:

Anallf llnd calcification of grllOO and floor,

Establishment of companies, sales outlets, branches and agencies in Germany and abroad,

Acquisition of companies and shareholdings in other companies,

Clos11ng down of businesses,

genbm.i.. gation of loans,

Callf and callf of patents llnd licenses,

Conclusion and alliance of cartels, syndicates, conventions and interest groups,

Production reports,

Donations to clubs llin associations.

8 !benda, A 5752, **ZentralauaaohuB, SchriftTerkehr.**

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The minutes are also regularly accompanied by reports given by research experts to inform the committee members about all of the IG's areas of interest, such as the IG's attempts to gain a foothold in the Soviet Union. The minutes of the 19th meeting on January 13, 1927 state that:

"Dr. Kurt Oppenheilll and Mr. Mühlen report in detail on the Russian conditions in the artificial silk sector, which in their opinion make the establishment of a factory in Russia necessary in the foreseeable future. The question is to be examined in detail by a small commission of merchants and technicians,
which is to prepare a written expert opinion and, in particular, also discuss the question of the possibility of profit for the I. G. "[9].

Also informative are the lists of donations that are kept in the minutes, which provide an almost complete overview of the amounts paid by the IG to support reactionary associations. However, the minutes not only contain matters of general importance, but also mention many specific company issues that are important for the history of individual companies. In the minutes of the
73rd session, for example, contains the following note: "Dr. Ga jewski speaks about the Premnitz disaster and commemorates the unfortunate victims. No fault can be established, as the court investigation has also shown. Wages continue to be paid and the company covers the funeral costs. The damage
amounts to 200,000. [10] With this determination, it was necessary for the lei

The IG's gentlemen dismissed and dismissed the accident at the Premnitz plant, in which seven workers were seriously injured and twelve workers lost their lives. The handling of the Premnitz disaster, which occurred during the dismantling of a plant for the production of explosives on December 7, 1932, casts a significant light on the IG. However, in order to divert attention from this omission
tried to portray the explosion as having been caused by the KPD for political reasons. [11]

9 Pawo, A 516, Arbeiteaueachu.ß (transcript of the 19th meeting on 1J. 1. 1927).
10 Ibid., A 520, Arbeiteaueachu8 (Minutes of the 7J. meeting-- 12, 12. 19)2).
11 Cf. Betrieb "rohiv VEB Chemiefaserwerk "Friedrich Engel■" Premnitz (Unterungaberioht v. 6. 1. 19)2, BJ:ploaionsunglück Geb. 405).

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The attitude of the IG with regard to the approved distribution of IG products to plant employees is also revealing. The minutes of the 29th meeting of the Working Committee state the following on this issue:
"With a view to maintaining good trade relations, it is important to that I. G. products in general may only be sold to employees at normal sales prices without discounts.
The major consequences and complications of commercial business are not in proportion to the advertising value of a discounted sale." 2[1]

The documents of the Labor Committee also contain many documents that provide information about the exploitation of foreign forced laborers. An announcement dated April 27, 1943 states: "The law on the payment of wages on national holidays does not apply to Poles. If Poles have to work on public holidays, they are not entitled to a public holiday supplement to their wages, with the exception of Sunday and overtime supplements.

ForOsteers, these:t' in this circular apply.
The principles **mentioned above** do not apply in any case, as the Eastern workers are in a special type of employment relationship."[13]

The characterization of the IG's policy towards the workforce also includes such examples in a company history.

The committee dcommitteeent was not only the highest commercial authority but, alongside the Central Committee, one of the most important committees of the IG. It had to discuss and decide on all **important** commercial and general economic issues of the IG and the affiliated companies. The Commercial Committee was responsible for matters of importance to all sales groups, such as pricing policy, conventions, personnel issues, foreign representative matters and propaganda issues. It also had to deal with the preparation of projects and the processing of credit proposals. At the same time, the office of the Commercial Committee as the UK and America Liaison Office.

12 lawo, A 517, ArbeitaauaaohuB (Hiedersoh?i&#65533;t über die 29. Sitzung am 10. 11. 1927).
13 Piwo, A 5771, Arbeit--u-aohuß (Announcement 10 of 27. 4. 1943).

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In the Caucasian Committee, all of the decisions taken by the Central Committee were adopted.

The following fundamental issues were dealt with in the minutes with regard to individual commercial matters, as follows are included:

Situatioll.8- and travel reports on European and non-European countries.

Countries,

Reports of the foreign representatives,

Overview of IG employees abroad and foreign representations,

Formation of sales organizations in Africa,

Reorganization of the sales companies and sales organizations,

Comments on agreements with **governments of** other countries on the **participation of** the IG in the development of industry,

Participation in foreign industrial companies, negotiations with the USSR,

Reports on the Iage in the artificial silk, nitrogen and photo business,

Documents on the expansion of the IG's sphere of influence during the Second World War,

Guidelines for balance sheets and balance sheet reports.

The role of the Commercial Committee in safeguarding the interests of the IG outside Germany became particularly apparent with the invasion of Austria and the ÖSR by the fascist Wehrmacht.

All measures aimed at appropriating companies and consolidating the IG's position of power in these countries were discussed by the Commercial Committee. The minutes of the 15th meeting of the Commercial Committee, for example, record: "Dr. v. Schnitzler first reports on our actions concerning Auasig, which resulted in Dr. Kugler and Ing. Brunner (Außiger Verein, Falke nau plant) being arrested by the Reich Ministry of Economics, the foreign organi.ea.

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tion and the High Command of the Wehrmacht were appointed as commissioners for the maintenance of businesses located in the Sudeten German territory. [1114]

Immediately IJB.Ch the annexation of the entire CSR, the 21st meeting of the Committee "... the changed situation created by the Protectorate"[1] 5 and discussed with regard to the Chemical companies in the so-called Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia prepared a corresponding procedure.

Above all, however, the Commercial Committee developed a feverish activity following the occupation of France, Belgium and Holand. As early as June 6, 1 940, von Schnitzler sent a letter to the members of the Commercial Committee t h a t was declared "strictly confidential". In this letter he wrote: "As Mr. von der Heyde informed me yesterday evening in Berlin, the OKW is expecting my and Dr. Terhaar's visit to Brussels in the very next few days. We will probably start our journey on Sunday or Monday. I would kindly ask you to i n f o r m Dr. Terhaar by telephone of any urgent requests you may have, in a c c o r d a n c e w i t h the last KA protocol. At the moment, both of our tasks will undoubtedly c o n s i s t primarily in providing the Economic Department of the OKW with some general information and contacting personalities with whom we can talk.

The Belgian side will be able to talk about bringing the Belgian economy back on track. The special treatment of actual IG problems will only become topical at a later date. However, we will of course not fail to mention the personalities for

to register their representatives, which the gentlemen will give us. It will be Director Jungbluth for the color area. [N16]

The discussions in Brussels were successful for the IG. The IG c o n s i d e r e d them to be so important that von Schnitzler had already June 24, 1940, addressed the following letter to the members of the Commercial Committee:

14 Bbenda, A 4963, Kauf'männiecher Aueschuß (minutes of the 15th session on 7, 10. 1938).

15 Ibid., Kaufdllniacher Aueachuß (Niederacbritt about the 21st Sitzwig on 21. 4, 1939).

16 !banda, A 4964, Kauf'mllnniecber Auaacbuß (letter to the -1tglieder v. 6. 6. 1940).

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" The office of the Commercial Committee issued a n invitation to the next meeting of the Commercial Committee for the
June 28/29 of this year in Frankfurt a. M. I enclose a copy of the invitation for those gentlemen who, although not members of the Commercial Committee, are kindly requested to attend,
to also be present on June 28 of this year. The main subject of our meeting, which i s referred to in the agenda under ◆ 1 as the 'Economic Policy Report', is the discussion of the complex of economic policy issues that have become topical due to the rapid development of military events in the West. We have r e c e i v e d a specific request from the Reich government to draw up a program in the shortest possible time on how our company envisages an order for all European interests in the chemical sector to be anchored in a future peace treaty. Here we are not only thinking of the relationship with those countries that are still at war with Germany, but also of those countries that are allied with Germany or that have been neutral up to now. The question therefore by no means extends solely to the future of the chemical industry.
treatment of England and France, but also to the southeast and Italy to the same extent. 1117

At the 33rd meeting of the Committee, the following plan for the reorganization of the European Economic Area was then adopted:

"Proposals of I. G. and its Group companies for economic reorganization

1. Opinion on questions which are assumed to b e settled within the framework of general provisions of peace treaties and annexed treaties:

   a) Trade policy measures, such as
      customs duties
      Contingent licenses
      Originating products and compulsory declaration Obligation to register

   b) foreign exchange policy measures

17 Bb-nda, Kaut'männieohar Au◆eohuB (letter to the members dated June 24, 1940).

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c) Issues relating to the right of establishment, in particular permanent establishment issues
Work permits

d) Tax policy measures
Prohibitive taxes and double taxation

e) Patent and trademark law issues

f) Acquisition of licenses, processes and technical experience

g) Control of industrialization

h) Treatment of shareholdings of foreign companies in Germany

i) Questions arising from the control system of the enemy's arms industry in the chemical sector and their connections with each other

k) Issues relating to the relocation of the headquarters of international cartels and other organizations

1) procurement of raw materials and related issues.

All relevant departments of I. G. and the Group companies are requested to provide suggestions on the above questions in the areas that are relevant to them.

2. Proposals that relate exclusively to the I. G. and which would have to be regulated by special provisions and agreements.

Examples of such concrete proposals were discussed at the meeting for all divisions and purchasing.

These proposals are to be prepared provisionally by country in the following order:

a) France
b) BelgieD/Imcemburg
c) Holland
d) Norway
e) Denmark
f) Poland
g) Protectorate
h) England and Empire.

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Proposals relating to other countries should first be prepared in such a way that information on enemy property prepared by the Economics Department is sent to the sales communities for comment.

-.. The aim must be to have the material on all questions concerning France evaluated and compiled by July 15, 1940. As a result, there is agreement that all
The relevant bodies must at least send the material on Frank Reich to the members of the K. A. and the gentlemen invited to the 33rd session of the K. A. and to the Wipo by July 10, 1940 at the latest.

These aforementioned preparations, insofar as they concern South-East Europe and Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea region, are to be prepared by means of special meetings, namely for South-East Europe in a meeting to be held - subject to the approval of the technical masters - for the Baltic Sea region.
July 10, 1940, before 9 1/2 a.m., to Berlin NW 7, Unter den Linden 78, for the Southeast Europe Committee meeting AND for Scandinavia
and the Baltic Sea region in a conference to be held on the same day at 4 p.m. Meeting chaired by Dr. Ilgner and attended by the permanent members of the sales associations. [1118]

In addition to the discussion of the "Plan for the Reorganization of Europe", which was in fact a plan to plunder the European states, the agenda of the same meeting also included the "Colonial Question", i.e. the colonial interests of the IG, which aimed to plunder the British AND French colonies in Africa. The following resolution was passed to prepare the necessary measures:

nThe K. A. is of the opinion that, in view of the reorganization plans discussed under point 1, considerations and preparatory measures must also be taken by the various I. G. offices. It is therefore decided that an Africa Committee will convene--- In view of the growing importance of colonial economic research, the A.C. is in favor of increasing
of the contribution to the Colonial Economic Committee from R.M. 5,000 to R.M. 10,000.n[19]

18 Ibid., Kautmll'.nniecher Au-echuB (NiederscMift on the 33rd Sit&#x0000;ng on June 28/29, 1940).
19 Ibid.

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Of course, the minutes also report on internal company matters. For example, the minutes of the 63rd meeting state: "For use in the anti-aircraft formations of the Wehrmacht, female conscripts from the 1920/21 cohorts from the factories are being recruited.

extracted. Complaints are only possible in the most urgent cases. 1120

The Group's attitude to technical progress should also be of interest to all former IG operations. In the meeting
of the Commercial Committee on November 19, 1931, the state of the IG mining operations was discussed and the following resolution was passed: "Technical progress should only be taken into account if it is in the interests of the company.
be taken into account if, after examining the overall interests of the I. G. and coal mines also economically entitled 1st. 1[N2]

The minutes of the Commercial Committee are also informative for companies that had business relations with the IG. At its meeting on May 10, 1932, the Commercial Committee discussed the nitric acid production of the Magdeburg large-scale gas works and passed the following resolution:

"The previous nitric acid offtake is increased by 10 % to 210 tons of nitrogen. We take 250 t N for fertilizer production at a price of 20 Pfg. per kg N from Magdeburg. In addition, Magde
burg for the decommissioning of the ammonia plant 5,000 per year. Magdebur[illegible] destroys the remaining 200/250 tons of nitrogen without any compensation." 2[2]

The large gas works in Ma[illegible]deburg was al[illegible]o prompted by the IG to destroy the nitrogen fertilizer so urgently needed in agriculture for reasons of profit and competition.

Naturally, the IG was particularly interested in expanding its influence on explosives plants through shareholdings. In the minutes of the meeting of the Commercial Committee on
On April 27, 1931, the following statement is made on this issue: "Sprengstof:fwerke Kieselbach Kunigunde G. m. b. H., which is operated by D. A. G. & Wintershall at 50 % each, has the opportunity to expand the well-operating,

20 !b-nda, A **353,** Kautmlf.nni■oh-r Au■■■ohuB (Ni-d-r■ohritt über■r di- **63.** Sitzung a■ **10. 5. 1944).**
21 Bl>-nda, A **4962,** Kau.tlllnniaoh-r Au■■chuB (Nieder■ohritt über-r die Sitzung &111 **19. 11, 1931)-**
22 Eb-nda, A **4992,** Kaufllulnnischer Ausschuss (Minutes of the meeting &III **10. 5. 19-32).**

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J. F. Eisfeld Silber hütte/Anhalt (factory for explosives and pyrotechnic articles) for sale for family reasons. Expenditure for the Nobel R.M. share 275,000. It speaks
competitive reasons for the acquisition of this business, which would otherwise pass into the hands of competitors."[2] 3 And at the meeting of the Committee on
July 9, 1931, it was decided to participate in the Schönebeck patrol.
and primer factory. The minutes state: "The Patronen- und Zündhütchen-
Fabrik Schönebeck A. G. passed from the ownership of steyer Werke
Wien into the hands of Hirtenbergar Patronen-, Zündhütchen-
and metal goods factory. The latter company could cause Schönebeck to terminate the conventions and this would have unpleasant repercussions for D. A. G. h aben. The D. A. G.
applies for and receives authorization to negotiate with Hirtenberg (possibly 50'/4 share in Schönebeck R.M. 500,000.-).[1124]

Overall, the minutes of the Commercial Committee are of great importance, and all former IG companies should pay particular attention to and carefully evaluate these documents when writing their company history,

TheTechnischer Ausschuss had to deal with the approval of loans and the passing of resolutions on technical issues. of the IG's field of work, taking into account the economic and financial aspects. The minutes of the Technical Committee regularly list :

Overviews of credit claims of individual departments of the IG,

Production statistics,

Statistical material on the development of expenses and Headcount.

As the Technical Committee was linked to the Social Commission by a sub-commission, the so-called Teko-Soko, the

2) **Bbenda, A** 4962, **Kaufmllllniaoher AuaachuB (Niederaohzi!t über die** Sitzung **am 27. 4, 1931).**
24 Bbend- (Kiederaohri!t about the meeting -- **9,** 6. **19)1).**

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The minutes also contain numerous social matters, such as statements on the costs of housing and economic and welfare enterprises. The committee also dealt with working time issues. The minutes of April 14, 1932: "Bosch requests that all companies report within 14 days to what extent short-time work has been implemented and what further possibilities exist in this regard. If short-time work is not can be introduced, the reasons must be stated. If possible, the shutdown should be for a full day. n25

An. ctions were almost always discussed at the meetings, aimed at deceiving and corrupting working people. The company savings banks played a special role in this. The Pro tokoll of July 10, 1931 notes:

"Surprisingly, the level of savings bank deposits has risen sharply: 17% of all blue-collar workers and 58% of white-collar workers, in total together 2? % of the entire I. G. staff are currently making use of the factory savings bank facility. 1126

At the meeting on May 11, 1932, the operating savings banks were again discussed and determined:

"An attempt should be made to ensure that, despite the existing provisions on the limitation of the interest rate to find a way to maintain the character of the works savings bank as a form of profit sharing ten. 112?

As the individual companies are listed by name in the statistics and lists of the Technical Committee, these documents offer the opportunity to fill any gaps in the company files.

Of the central commissions that belonged to the group of leading committees, the Social Commission was of particular importance. The minutes are very diverse and can provide important information and suggestions, especially for the presentation of the workers' situation. The area of responsibility of the Social Commission included the processing of

25 Pawo, A 8245, Technical Au.aaohu8 (Minutes of the meeting on 14. 4, 1932).
26 Ibid., A 8242, Techniacber Auscohu8 (transcript of the meeting on 10. 7, 1931).
27 Bbenda, A 8245, Teobniacher Ausccbu8 (Minutes of the meeting v, 11. 5, 1932).

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The commission was responsible for all socio-political matters, in particular issues relating to wages, salaries, welfare, pensions and support, as well as personnel statistics and employment records for the factories of the entire IG. The Factory Doctors' Conference, which was based at the Wolfen paint factory, was a sub-committee.

Housing matters,
Reports of the accident commission and occupational health and safety issues, loans for workers and employees, vacation matters,
Development of wage totals, wage statistics, working hours and redundancies,
Movement of workers and employees in the individual factories,
Support, pension and company health insurance, bonus system and company savings bank,
Negotiations with the trade unions,

From 1933 onwards, the Social Commission was also responsible for considering political issues. And so the minutes contain, among other things
[illegible]nterludes to the resistance struggle in the aer IG factories that are not normally suspected here.

The Social Commission received constant reports from the IG's security department about the work of illegal groups and acts of sabotage. In a letter dated June 14, 1935, for example, the Social Commission was informed as follows:

"We have once again been made aware that the illegal K. P. D. continues to work extensively. Ver
Various acts of sabotage and incidents in the industry in recent times suggest in particular that the K. P.. D. there is hidden. 1128

Trade union issues also take up a lot of space in the minutes. The IG men were constantly endeavoring to disrupt relations between works council members and the workers as much as possible, as evidenced by the remarks marked "strictly confidential".

28 **Ibid., A 7652, SozialkOllllission, Schrittverksbr.**

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to the minutes of the Soko meeting of October 6, 1927: "The Soko has continued to take the position that,
even if one could not prevent the representatives of the r. G.
works come together on Sundays, for example, you don't have to shake hands.
such meetings as long as there is no legal compulsion to do so.[1129]

The same protocol also specifies the activities of the trade unions:

"In our opinion, it must be ruled out under all circumstances.
The trade unions should not be given any opportunity to participate in the setting of individual piecework rates at the plants. [1130]

The restriction of trade union activity and the increase in exploitation were issues that were repeatedly discussed in almost all meetings of the Social Commission. In this context, attempts were made with particular intensity to reduce the costs of health protection and occupational health insurance payments. With regard to the sickness rate and IG health insurance funds, the minutes of the 69th meeting s t a t e : "Those funds that are linked to outpatient clinics have a higher take-up rate because the visit to the outpatient clinics, which is sometimes possible without wage deduction, obviously encourages sickness reporting. In addition, the cases treated by outpatient physicians are undoubtedly treated more intensively and therefore often longer than those treated by independent panel physicians, which makes i necessary to take the following steps to reduce the heavy burden on the I. G. health insurance funds: Expansion of patient monitoring, intensification of medical examinations by medical consultants and possibly extension of these to cases being treated by outpatient physicians.

It should also be examined whether the introduction of a premium on the utilization of health insurance can be achieved. [1131]

29 Ibid., A 7642, **Sozialkommiasion (Remarks** ZUIII minutes of the Soko meeting on 6, 10. 1927).
30 Ibid,
31 Ibid., A 7644, Social Commission (minutes of the 69th meeting **on** 20. 12. 1929).

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The "cost-cutting attempts" even went so far as to withdraw milk and clothing allowances even from workers in factories with serious health problems. A corresponding proposal was submitted on October 24, 1930 by the head of the accounting department to the head of the social department at Farben:fabrik Wolfen and justified as follows

"When reviewing the calculations for the 3rd quarter, it is noticeable that expenses are already strongly influenced by the cost of milk and clothing. I consider it necessary to discuss this matter in detail and, above all, to examine whether we can reduce the quantity of milk per man even further. As I have already stated on several occasions, a number of I. G. plants do not even see from the position of milk to workers on the same farms .,[32]

On the basis of such examples, the company histories can clearly prove the assertion still spread today by the former IG masters that the IG's social expenses were always considerably higher than the legally stipulated expenses. [33]

As already mentioned, in addition to the management committees, there were numerous other commissions that established the connections and cross-connections between the divisions and company communities. Their written material is important for the historiography of the by no means of lesser importance. In the context of this overview However, this cannot be discussed in detail. It is therefore recommended that all company history collectives contact the company archives of Filmfabrik Wolfen, Far benfabrik Wolfen and Elektro-Chemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld in order to obtain material. As former leading companies of Division III and the Central German Works Community of the IG, these companies not only have minutes of the leading committees and central commissions in their archives, but also a comprehensive collection of documents from the Technical and Scientific Commissions. and the workers. However, the minutes of the leading committees of the IG are not only important for the historiography of individual companies, they are also a source for the history of the German labor movement.

32 Bbenda, A 7652, Sozialkommisaion, Sohri!tTerkehr.
33 Cf. ter Keer1 Pritz, Die I. G.-Farbeninduatrie A.k:tiengeaellaohaft - ihre EntetehUJ18, E:ntw1cklUJ18 und Bedeutung, Waeeldort 1953, p. 111.

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and of great importance for investigations into the strategy and tactics of the leading forces of German imperialism. It would therefore be desirable for the works councils of the chemical companies, possibly in cooperation with the state archive administration, to identify all the documents of the committees and commissions and publish them as a source reference,

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